

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to claim 1 because "said ledge regions", "the shape" and "the top surfaces" lacked sufficient antecedent basis. Objection was made to claim 12 because "the shape" and "the top surfaces" lacked sufficient antecedent basis. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended and it is believed that the Examiner's objections are now overcome.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Cripps et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,061,540. These claims have been amended and are now believed to be allowable in view of the prior art of record. A new claim 19 is also presented which includes some of the limitations of claims 1 and 12 and, therefore, is believed allowable in light of the remarks below. As the remainder of the claims depend from either claim 1 or claim 12, all claims are believed to be allowable based on the following discussion.

Cripps et al. recites an article over which a molding is to be made, which includes an element (10) having a top surface and a bottom surface. Hooks (16) extend from the bottom surface of the element, and a magnetized strip (24) is fixed to the element. However, Cripps et al. does not teach ledge regions having a surface which is in contact with the top surface of the vertical walls. The surface-to-surface contact of the present invention provides improved sealing and acts to substantially prevent foam penetration into the cavity.

Cripps et al. teaches extending portions (20) which, when placed in trough (32), contact only an edge of a vertically extending wall (36). (Figs. 2 and 4). This single, interrupted line of contact of Cripps et al. does not prevent foam from penetrating the trough (32) and indeed, this is not its function. As is evident from Fig. 3, extending portions (20) include holes (22) and notched portions which permit foam to flow therebetween. Foam therefore flows into a portion (40b) of trough (32) and is only prevented from contaminating hooks (16) by sealing lips (18). Extending portions (20) therefore perform no sealing function, and are merely provided to enhance mechanical connection between the foam and insert (10). (Column 4, lines 4-7).

Cripps et al. teaches sealing lips (18) which contact the bottom (34) of trough (32) to prevent entry of foam into the portion of the trough (32) facing the hooks (16). (Column 4, lines 10-13). These sealing lips (18) only contact bottom surface (34) of trough (32), in contradistinction with the ledges of the present invention, which include a bottom surface which is in contact with the top surface of the vertical walls to provide the seal. Thus, the presently claimed invention is patentably distinct because Cripps et al. does not teach ledge portions in surface-to-surface contact with the vertically extending walls, thereby resisting foam penetration into the cavity.

In the present invention, the relatively flexible nature of the ledges (16 and 17) allows them to rest on the top surface of the vertical wall and follow its undulation (see Fig. 3). This broad area of contact promotes effective sealing against the penetration of the poured foam. This system is very efficient and requires less complexity compared to the prior art as exemplified by Cripps et al.

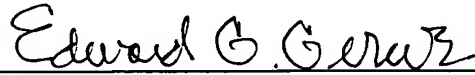
Accordingly, the prior art of record does not suggest that which now appears in amended claims 1 and 12 and new claim 19, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn. As the remainder of the claims include all limitations of claim 1 or claim 12, these claims are also believed to be nonobvious in light of the prior art of record.

It is believed that no fee is required for new claim 19, but if a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, the Applicant believes that claims 1-8, and 12-19 are in condition for allowance and reconsideration and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further issues remain after this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward G. Greive". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Edward G. Greive, Reg. No. 24,726
Renner, Kenner, Greive, Bobak, Taylor & Weber
Fourth Floor, First National Tower
Akron, Ohio 44308-1456
Telephone: (330) 376-1242

Attorney for Applicant

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